

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/689,582

Examiner

Nhan T. Tran

Applicant(s)

WEI, DAVID

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 10/22/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations of claim 1 that includes "...**said first driving unit comprising a fixed gear wheel fixedly mounted on said upright shaft inside said hollow bottom shell, a circuit board fixedly fastened to said top cover, a reversible motor fixedly mounted on said circuit board, and a transmission mechanism coupled between said fixed gear wheel and the reversible motor of said first driving unit, said second driving unit comprising a flat supporting plate fixedly fastened to a bottom side of said camera, an eccentric wheel axially extended in parallel to said horizontal pivot, and a motor fixedly mounted on said circuit board and adapted to rotate said eccentric wheel, said flat supporting plate having a bottom opening coupled to said eccentric wheel for enabling said flat supporting plate to be moved up and down upon rotary motion of said eccentric wheel.**"

Regarding claims 2-8, these claims are allowed as being directly dependent from claim 1.

Followings are closest references found:

Nishimura et al. (US 5,734,414) discloses a camera unit for an electronic conference that is adapted to be set on a monitor, and comprises a stationary support base set on the monitor, a camera unit body provided on said stationary support base so as to be horizontally rotatable, a lens block supported to the camera unit body so as to be vertically rotatable, and a control device incorporated in the camera unit body, for controlling the rotation of the camera unit body and the lens block and the focal distance and zooming ratio of the lens block, the lens block is adapted to be turned between a horizontal position at which the lens block is stored in a recess formed in the camera unit body, and picks up a person in front thereof, and a vertical position at which the lens block is projected forward from the camera unit body so as to pick up a document set therebelow, and the control device controls the focal distance and zooming ratio of the lens block in accordance with a horizontally rotating position of the camera unit body and a vertical rotating position of the lens block.

Hovanky (US 6,356,308 B1) discloses a positioning device that is provided for rotatably positioning a camera or other article about orthogonal rotational axes. The positioning device includes a carriage supported for rotation about a horizontal axis by a yoke. The yoke is in turn rotatably coupled to a base assembly for rotation of the yoke about a vertical axis. Rotation of the camera about the horizontal and vertical axes is respectively effected by first and second voice coil actuators, each comprising a pair of magnets and at least one coil to which current is supplied. The amplitude and direction of the current supplied to the coil determines the speed and direction of

rotation of the camera. The second voice coil actuator preferably includes a coil assembly comprising two opposed coils. This design overcomes the angular range limitations associated with prior art voice coil actuators and enables rotation of the camera about an extended angular range. The device can be advantageously utilized for adjustment of the pan and tilt angles of a video camera in a conferencing system.

Nakano (US 6,124,892) discloses a panhead device that includes a base, a support mount which is movably supported by the base to place a camera thereon, a driving mechanism for driving the support mount in at least one of a panning direction and a tilting direction, a controller for controlling the driving mechanism to cause the support mount to be moved in a predetermined direction, and a clutch mechanism, disposed inside the driving mechanism, for transmitting and blocking a driving force.

Kajino et al. (US 6,830,388 B2) discloses a camera rotation device comprising motors provided on rotated sides rotating with a camera with respect to their rotating sides which rotate the camera. More specifically, regarding a pan direction, a pan motor is provided in a pan section which rotates with respect to a base section. With regard to a tilt direction, a tilt motor is provided in a tilt section which rotates with respect to the pan section. Torque of each motor is transferred to each rotating side so that the camera on the rotated side rotates with the motor by reaction force of the rotating side. This structure, in comparison with conventional devices where a motor and a rotation mechanism are provided separately, has a motor provided on the rotated side and therefore reduces space for mounting a motor. As a result, this configuration enables the camera rotation device to be made smaller.

Sawada (US 6,939,061 B2) discloses a turntable device principally including a horizontal rotation base and an up-and-down swinging mechanism, which are driven by VCMs. An optical apparatus is placed on supports, which are arranged on the horizontal rotation base, with a horizontal rotation shaft therebetween. The optical apparatus is directed up-and-down and right-and-left by movable pieces connected to movable coils of the VCMs, so as to constitute the turntable device. The optical apparatus is placed on the turntable.

Kutman (US 4,736,218) discloses a camera housing unit including an adjustable camera support means for supporting a camera and a protective, substantially opaque enclosure surrounding the support means and having an elongate opening therein. A separate, elongate transparent glass window covers the opening and defines a curved surface, the center of curvature of which is located on the optical centerline of the camera when the camera is mounted on the support means. The support means includes either manual or power means for pivoting the camera about the center of curvature of the curved surface in the plane of the longitudinal centerline of the window. The mounting means for the camera is supported by an inner post surrounded by an exterior sleevelike support on which the enclosure is mounted. The sleevelike support is mechanically isolated and spaced-apart from the inner post.

Chang (US 6,831,697 B1) discloses a surveillance camera with rotary camera lens comprising a body having a pair of opposed and spaced pivot supports with a receiving space formed therebetween, a pivotable lens seat having two ends and a pivot portion at each of these two ends, and a pivot assembly connected

between one of the pair of pivot supports of the body and the pivot portion of the pivotable lens seat so that the pivotable lens seat may be pivotably connected to the body within the receiving space and stopped at any desired pivoting position.

Hart (US 5,473,368) discloses an automated interactive surveillance device that provides passive infrared surveillance of a predetermined area to determine if an intruder enters the area. When the passive infrared detectors detect such an intruder, the device acts to aim a camera and ultrasonic rangefinder in the appropriate direction. The rangefinder determines the precise distance from the device to the intruder, whereupon the camera is accurately focused, the focal length adjusted for a relatively narrow field of view providing good resolution at the selected distance, and the angular elevation of the camera is adjusted appropriately. The passive infrared detectors may cooperate with a program to determine an approximate size for the detected intruder, based upon the amount of heat detected and the range determined by the ultrasonic rangefinder, to thus determine whether or not a human threat exists. The device may be elevated, with programming considering camera height, range to the intruder, and amount of heat detected to determine the approximate height of the intruder and aim the camera accordingly for a high resolution facial shot. One or more devices as needed may be connected to a remote monitoring site.

However, none of the above recited references teaches or fairly suggests the combination of limitations of claim 1 as stated above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/689,582
Art Unit: 2622

Page 8

NHAN T. TRAN
Patent Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ometz', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER